

ITALIAN FORGERY

DRAWER 6A

FORGERIES

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# **Lincoln Forgeries**

**Italian Forgery**

**Excerpts from newspapers and other  
sources**

**From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection**

# LINCOLN IN 1853 VISIONED ROME AS EUROPE'S CAPITAL

## Emancipator's Letter Has Come to Light.

Chicago Tribune 11-20-31

ROME, Nov. 19.—(P)—A letter purportedly written by Abraham Lincoln and envisaging the day when Rome would become the capital of a United States of Europe came to light today in connection with press comment on the Italo-American conversations in Washington.

It was dated from Springfield, Ill., in 1853 and addressed to the late Macedonia Melloni, scientist, patriot, and once director of the Vesuvius observatory. It has just been published by the Historical Society of Italian Renaissance with the permission of the government.

Referring to ancient appellations of Rome as the capital of the world in making his prediction, the great emancipator wrote "the privileged geographical position itself of the eternal city justifies in the eyes of every one this augural prophecy."

### Recalls Famous Italians.

"That most glorious Rome," he exclaimed, "which gave civilization to all the terrestrial globe, which has discovered us, created, redeemed, educated, and nourished us morally with her indestructible laws."

Lincoln recalled regretfully the number of Italians who had brought fame to other countries: "Napoleon, your great fellow citizen, who enriched France instead of Italy with glory and money as Prince Eugene of Savoy did for Austria, as Christopher Columbus did for Spain, as Cabot did for England."

Writing before Italy became unified and before he was elected to the presidency, Lincoln said the entire Italian peninsula ought to be a united, independent nation. His sentiments are said to embody many of the aspirations of Premier Mussolini for a unified, Fascist Italy.

### Should Possess Islands.

To Italy should be joined the three major islands of the Mediterranean—Sardinia, Corsica, and Sicily—he wrote, as well as the provinces of Lombardy and Venice, the Tridentine and Julian Venetie, then under Austrian domination. He wrote that Italy should include the whole of the ancient lake of Venetie from Flume to Cattaro and the whole of Dalmatia and Albania.

"The only Italian unity that one can admit is this," he continued. "Whoever doesn't grant it strikes at the principles of the sanest of honest policies in order to prepare in the future for the cruellest and deadliest of wars, the most turbulent and insidious of unnamable speculations."

Such are Italy's dreams today as Mussolini compares his kingdom of the twentieth century with the Roman empire in the times of Christ. She believes that Corsica should be hers because the people are predominantly Italian and because for four centuries the island belonged to Genoa. Her views on Dalmatia are one of the causes of the difficulties between her and Jugoslavia.

### Will Distribute Copies.

The letter now is owned by Nino d'Althan, a descendant of Camillo Cavour, statesman of Italy's unification. The society ordered that photostatic copies be distributed to libraries and historians all over the world. In a preface to the missive the society said:

"D'Althan, a relative of Melloni, refused a conspicuous sum of money for sale of the previous letters to Lord Northcliffe, who wished to withdraw from circulation a document which he believed injurious to the cause of Jugoslavia."

## Lincoln Viewed Rome as Natural Europe Capital

### Letter Written in 1853 Reveals He Envisaged a Federat ion of Nations.

Rome, Nov. 20.—(P)—A letter purportedly written by Abraham Lincoln and envisaging the day when Rome would become the capital of a united states of Europe came to light today in connection with press comment on the Italo-American conversations in Washington.

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Writing before Italy became unified and before he was elected to the presidency, Lincoln said the entire Italian peninsula ought to be a united, independent nation. His sentiments are said to embody many of the aspirations of Premier Mussolini for a unified, Fascist Italy.

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# FEDERATED EUROPE TRACED TO LINCOLN

Note of 1853 Found Visioning  
Rome as Its Capital; Mus-  
solini's Aspirations Forecast

## LETTER REVEALED IN ROME

Rome, Nov. 19 — (AP) — A letter purportedly written by Abraham Lincoln and envisaging the day when Rome would become the capital of a United States of Europe came to light today.

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Referring to ancient appellations of Rome as the capital of the world in making his prediction, Lincoln wrote:

"The privileged geographical position itself of the Eternal City justifies in the eyes of every one this augural prophecy—that most glorious Rome which gave civilization to all the terrestrial globe, which has discovered us, created, redeemed, educated and nourished us morally with her indestructible laws."

Urged United Peninsula

Lincoln recalled regretfully the number of Italians who had brought fame to other countries.

" \* \* \* Napoleon, your great fellow citizen, who enriched France instead of Italy with glory and money, as Prince Eugene of Savoy did for Austria, as Christopher Columbus did for Spain, as Cabot did for England."

Writing before Italy became unified and before he was elected to the presidency, Lincoln said that the entire Italian peninsula ought to be a united, independent nation, his sentiments are said to embody many of the aspirations of Premier Mussolini for a unified, Fascist Italy.

### Foresaw Dream of Today

To Italy should be joined the three major islands of the Mediterranean—Sardinia, Corsica and Sicily—he wrote, as well as the provinces of Lombardy and Venice, the Tridentine and Julian Venice, then under Austrian domination. He wrote that Italy should include the whole of the ancient Lake of Venice from Fiume to Cattaro and the whole of Dalmatia and Albania.

"The only Italian unity that one can admit is this," he continued. "Whoever doesn't grant it, strikes at the principles of the sanest of honest policies in order to prepare in the future for the cruelest and deadliest of wars, the most turbulent and insensate of unnameable speculations."

Such are Italy's dreams today as Mussolini compares his kingdom of the twentieth century with the Roman Empire in the time of Christ. She believes Corsica should be hers because the people are predominantly Italian and because for four centuries the island belonged to Genoa. Her views on Dalmatia are one of the causes of the difficulties between her and Yugoslavia.

## LETTER BY LINCOLN DISCOVERED IN ITALY

President Envisaged Rome as  
Capital of United States of  
Europe, Writing in 1853.

### FAVORED A UNITED NATION

Held Corsica, Sicily and Sardinia  
Should Be Included — Thesis  
Likened to Mussolini's Aims.

W. J. L. 1931  
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"That most glorious Rome, which gave civilization to all the terrestrial globe, which has discovered us, created, redeemed, educated and nourished us mainly with her indestructible laws!" he exclaimed.

Lincoln recalled regretfully the number of Italians who had brought fame to other countries: "Napoleon, your great fellow-citizens, who entered France instead of Italy with glory and victory, as Prince Eugene of Savoy did for Austria, as Christopher Columbus did for Spain, as Cabot did for England."

Writing before Italy became unified and before he was elected to the Presidency, Lincoln said that the entire Italian peninsula ought to be a united independent nation. His sentiments are said to embody many of the aspirations of Premier Mussolini for a unified Faacist Italy.

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"The real Italian unity that one can admit is this," he continued. "Whoever doesn't grant it strikes at the principles of the sanest of honest policies in order to prepare in the future for the cruellest and deadliest of wars, the most turbulent and insidious of unnameable speculations."

Italy's dreams today as Premier Mussolini compares his kingdom.

the twentieth century with the Roman Empire in the time of Christ are similar in the politics that Corseca should be hers because the people are predominantly Italian and for four centuries the island belonged to Genoa. Her views on Dalmatia are one of the causes of the difficulties between her and Yugoslavia.

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"D'Althan, a relative of Melloni, refused a conspicuous sum of money for the sale of the precious letter to Lord Northcliffe, who wished to withdraw from circulation a document which he believed injurious to the cause of Yugoslavia."

## EASED WEST ASKS WIDER CREDITS TO CURB DEPRESSION

is, Pleads for a Res-  
pect for a

## Ad *Ask That All Navy Men* *Give Three Days' Pay for Idle*

By The Associated Press

REPORT, R. L., Nov. 19.—A telegram, sent by Secretary of the Navy Charles Francis Adams to all naval vessels and stations received here today suggested that all officers, enlisted men and civilian employees contribute three days' pay to local community chests for unemployment relief.

The waiver suspended a navy regulation whereby solicitation of funds was prohibited.

The Secretary advised the various local commanders that the plan worked out by the navy in the District of Columbia was being forwarded for their guidance.

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Referring to ancient appellations of Rome as the capital of the world, Lincoln predicted that "some day" he wrote that "the privileged geographical position itself of the Eternal City justifies in the eyes of every one this augural prophecy."

"That most glorious Rome, which gave civilization to all the terrestrial globe which has discovered us, created, refined, educated and nourished us morally with her indestructible laws!" he exclaimed.

Lincoln recalled regretfully the number of Italians who had brought fame to other countries: "Napoleon, your great fellow-citizens, who enriched France instead of Italy with glory and money, as Prince Eugene or Savoy did for Austria; Christopher Columbus did for Spain, as Cabot did for England."

Writing before Italy became unified and before he was elected to the Presidency, Lincoln said that the entire Italian peninsula ought to be a united independent nation. His sentiments were shared by many of the aspirants of Premier Mussolini for a unified, Fascist Italy.

"Italy, he wrote, should be joined to the three major islands of the Mediterranean — Sardinia, Corsica and Sicily — as well as the Provinces of Lombardy and Venice, the Trentino and Friuli, Venetia, then under Austrian domination. He wrote that Italy should include the whole of the ancient Lake of Venice from Flume to Cattaro and the whole of Dalmatia and Albania.

"The only Italian unity that one can admit is this," he continued. "What does it grant if it strikes at the principles of the sanest of honest policies in order to prepare in the future for the cruellest and deadliest of wars, the most turbulent and insensate of unnameable speculations?"

Italy's dreams today as Premier Mussolini compares his kingdom of Italy with the country of the Roman Empire in the time of Christ are similar. Italy believes that Corsica should be hers because the people are predominantly Italian and for four centuries the island belonged to Genoa. Her views on Dalmatia are one of the causes of the difficulties between her and Yugoslavia.

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"D'Alhan, a relative of Mellon, refused a considerable sum of money for the sale of the precious letter to Lord Northcliffe, who wished to withdraw from circulation documents which he believed injurious to the cause of Yugoslavia."

## LETTER GIVES VIEWS OF LINCOLN IN 1849

Unpublished Missive Shows He Opposed Any "Submissions" by President Taylor.

### LINKED TO MELLONI SCRIPT

Said to Have Bearing on Authenticity of Message Voicing Mussolini-Like Ideas.

New York [unclear] 11-21-31

The publication yesterday of a letter allegedly written by Abraham Lincoln in 1853 to Macedonia Meloni, Italian physicist, in which the future American President is represented as visualizing the day when there would be a United State of Europe, with Rome as the capital, resulted in the appearance here of another unpublished Lincoln letter, written at Springfield, Ill., July 28, 1849, to Secretary of State J. M. Clayton, then serving in President Zachary Taylor's Cabinet.

The latter letter was made public by its owner, Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, because of its inferential bearing on the authenticity of the alleged Meloni letter, in which Lincoln is credited as expressing the belief that the Italian peninsula should be united under a single head with holding beliefs such as Italian Mussolini's glorified Fascist Italy.

"I was unaware that at that period (1853) Lincoln was interested in foreign or international politics, although it is possible he might have been," said Dr. Rosenbach.

"The letter has direct bearing on the letter published here, since it gives the most concise manner Lincoln's own view of what the President's attitude should be."

The letter given out by Dr. Rosenbach follows:

CONFIDENTIAL  
Springfield, Ills., July 28th, 1849.  
Hon. J. M. Clayton  
Dear Sir  
It is with some hesitation I presume to address you this letter. And yet it is not only I, but the whole Cabinet and the President too, would consider the subject-matter of it—My being among the People while you and they are not, will excuse the apparent presumption—it is understood that the President at first acted as a general rule to throw the responsibility of the appointments upon the respective Departments; and that such a rule is adhered to and practiced upon—This course I at first thought proper; and, of course, I am not now complaining of it—Still, I am disappointed with the effect of it on the public mind, in it fixing for the President the unjust and ruinous character of being a man of straw—This must be arrested or it will damn us all inevitably—It is said Gen' Taylor and his officers held a council of war, at Palo Alto (I believe); and that he then fought

the battle against the unanimous opinion of those officers—This fact (no matter whether rightfully or wrongfully given him more popularity) and the thousand submissions, however really wise and magnanimous those submissions may be—The appointments need be no better than they have been, but the public must be brought to understand, that they are the President's appointments—He must personally take the blame, say "by the Eternal," "I take the responsibility"—Those phrases were the "Samson's locks" of Gen: Jackson, and we dare not disregard the lessons of experience.

Yours obt Servt,

A. LINCOLN.

There was a general disposition on the part of Lincoln authorities here to withhold expressions of opinion concerning the authenticity of the Meloni letter until facsimile photostat copies arrived from Italy.

NOVEMBER 21, 1931





## SAYS LINCOLN NOTE MAY BE SPURIOUS

Hertz, Biographer, Sees Doubt  
in Authenticity of Letter

'Discovered in Italy.'

*N. G. Hertz*  
MY DEAR MELLONI IS CLUE

Nov. 22 '31

New York Lawyer Also Questions  
Genulness Because No Date  
Appears in Communication.

Doubt as to the authenticity of the letter allized to have been written by Abraham Lincoln to Macadonia Melloni, Italian scientist, in 1853, which was said in an Associated Press dispatch from Rome to have "come to light" there last Thursday, was expressed yesterday by Emanuel Hertz, a lawyer of 149 Broadway, and author of "Lincoln: A New Portrait," to be published Dec. 1 by Horace Liveright, Inc.

The English text of the letter, translated from the Italian, is to appear in Mr. Hertz's book. Instead of being a newly discovered document, Mr. Hertz said the letter was quoted in full in an article by Wythe Williams in The Public Ledger of Philadelphia, May 1, 1920. Despite repeated efforts, Mr. Hertz said he had been unable to obtain from Italy a photostatic copy of the original.

Mr. Hertz's misgivings as to the genuineness of the alleged letter from Lincoln are based upon several points. He says it was addressed "My dear Melloni," a form of salutation he thinks unlikely Mr. Lincoln would have used to a person he did not know well. The letter, he also points out, is undated. He thinks Mr. Lincoln was most particular in respect to the date of that sort, and that his omission of the date is a suspicious circumstance. On the other hand, Mr. Hertz says the fact that it has been published by the Historical Society of the Italian Renaissance, with the permission of the Italian Government, is not to be taken lightly.

### Text of Letter.

The text of the alleged letter to Melloni, as translated from the Italian into English by Giuseppe Mazzini, will appear in Mr. Hertz's book as follows:

Himholdt has given me the message you sent me through Mr. Faraday, of your desire to have my thoughts concerning the political reorganization of Europe. I admire all you have suffered for science and still more what you have suffered for the independence and liberty of your beloved country. I am convinced that when the barbarians swept down upon ancient Rome they profited by the state of moral dissolution, from which the empire then suffered, to destroy, sack and obliterate and thus retard for several centuries the triumphal march of civilization. We were all on the road to the forming of a single race when sud-

denly there fell upon the civilized world that epoch of deep darkness, that epoch of barbarism, obscuring the glorious light of immortal eternal Rome—that Rome which had given civilization to the entire world, that Rome which has even made America a civilized nation and which has nourished us morally highly. That Rome which, it may be, in the more or less distant future, the luminous capital of the United States of Europe.

It is criminal to obstruct the normal course of the development of nations and block the foundation of a future United States of Europe.

First of all, in order to realize this end it is indispensable to ensure the absolute independence of Italy, because this independence is necessary for the equilibrium of the civilized world. All of the Italian peninsula with its islands should be completely united in one nation.

The kingdom of Lombardy, with the two Venices, the Trentino and Julian Provinces, should be united to the mother country without any interruption of territory and with absolute freedom. From the lake of Venice—the Adriatic—from Fiume as far as Cattaro without interruption, the whole length of Dalmatia as far as Albania, which also ought to be absolutely united to Italy.

The only Italian unity which can be admitted is one which does not permit the trampling under foot of the simplest principles of the actual political situation, thus to prepare for the near futurs the most bloody, most deadly of wars.

Dalmatia has a history of almost twenty-two centuries. The ethnical quantities which have been apparently superimposed there, to the prejudice of the native Italians, are formed by the most barbarous people of the world—the Bulgarians, Croats, Serbians. As I wrote you last time, the Serbians in particular take no glory except in assassination and crimes of carnage and vandalism of every description.

This glorious Dalmatia, by the treaty of Campo Formio, was first given to Austria, then given to Napoleon, your great citizen, who enriched the glory of France in the same manner as Christopher Columbus had enriched that of Spain. Then by the Holy Alliance it was handed back to Austria.

As to the Albanians, they are Italians and nothing else, the same as the Sicilians and the inhabitants of the northern part of your peninsula. When the Italians were already civilized we Americans had not yet been born.

Work along this line, my great friend. The task is hard but one must not be discouraged if you will tell your children a political aphorism which will have the most terrible consequences.

Two empires in my opinion are destined to disappear from the face of the earth to make place for the birth of free and independent nationalities. I mean the British Empire and the Austrian Empire which are indeed historical absurdities or, if you like, called the expression, ethnical paradoxes. The universal confederation of human consciences must triumph. Napoleon once said that Europe would either become republican or Caesar. She must not become Caesar. She must not become Cosack. She must be free. She is free, contemplates the conquest of Constantinople and India in order to possess the hegemony of the world, but no people should oppress others to restrict them in the geographical distribution of nations. There will always be ethnical minorities included in great masses and in the older nations, but they should for the moment live in peace and harmony with each other because their

sacred rights will be defended when the day of the desired confederation comes. The Straits of the Dardanelles and Gibraltar should be accessible to all and if some day the isthmus of Suez is pierced by a canal, it must not be an iniquitous privilege for one people to the exclusion of all others. It ought to enjoy a natural and general freedom.

Going back to what I have already said, I believe that the revolution should penetrate the entire mass of all humanity without distinction in order to avoid the violence, thefts, brutalities, pillages and bloody impositions which form the patrimony of humanity and which create a new past, where no human can stagger under. Nations disappear, but the ideal remains. It is eternal. For the triumphs of this holy ideal, my dear Melloni, one should fight to one's last breath. Science teaches us that our politics should end all the forms of imperialism which weigh as a great cloud on the human soul. Only then would be true civilization. Yours, ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

### Failed to Get Photostatic Copy.

Mr. Hertz said that he had attempted to get a photostatic copy of the original letter from Nino D'Althan, a relative of Melloni who now owns the letter, but without success. D'Althan had written him, Mr. Hertz said, that such a copy would appear in a book, "Melloni and Lincoln," soon to be published in Italy, but that so far as he knew the book had not thus far appeared.

## LETTER GIVES VIEWS OF LINCOLN IN 1849

Unpublished Missive Shows He  
Opposed Any "Submissions"

by President Taylor.

*N. G. Hertz*  
LINKED TO MELLONI SCRIPT

Nov. 21 1931  
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The latter letter was made public by its owner, Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, because of its infernal bearing on the authenticity of the alleged Melloni letter, in which Lincoln is credited as expressing the belief that the Italian peninsula should be united under a single head, with holding beliefs such as inspire Mus-

sought for a unified European army.  
"I was unaware that at that period (1853) Lincoln was interested in foreign or international politics, although it is possible he might have been," said Dr. Rosenbach.

"The letter has direct bearing on the letter published from Rome, as the gifts in my opinion were Lincoln's own view of what the President's attitude should be." The letter given out by Dr. Rosenbach follows:

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Springfield, Ills., July 28th, 1849.  
Hon. J. M. Clayton  
Dear Sir

It is with some hesitation I presume to address you this letter— And as I wish not only you, but all who are concerned, and the President too, would consider the subject-matter of it—My being among the People while you and they are not, will excuse the apparent presumption—it is understood that the President at first adopted, as a general rule, to throw the responsibility of the appointment upon the respective Departments; and that such a rule is adhered to and practiced upon—This course I at first thought proper; and, of course, I am not now complaining of it—Still, I am disappointed with the effect of it on the public mind—It is fine for the President the unjust and ruinous character of being a man of straw—This must be arrested or it will damn us all inevitably—It is said Gen: Taylor and his officers held a council of war, at Palo Alto (I suppose) and that he then fought the battle according to the unanimous opinion of those officers—This fact (no matter whether rightfully or wrongfully) gives him more popularity than ten thousand submissions, however really wise and magnanimous those submissions may be—The appointments need not be withdrawn if they have been, but the public must be brought to understand, that they are the President's appointments—He must occasionally say, or seem to say "by the Eternal" "I take the responsibility"—Those phrases were "Samson" locks of Gen: Jackson and we can not disregard the lessons of experience.

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SDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1936

**LETTER IS CALLED FAKE**

Expert Denies Lincoln Wrote "Liberator" Note.

ROME, Oct. 14.—(AP)—A much-disputed letter in which Abraham Lincoln supposedly envisions Rome as the capital of "the United States of Europe," was labeled a fake today.

In the letter, purported to have been written in 1853 to a lieutenant of Giuseppe Mazzini, Italian liberal, Lincoln was supposed to have approved Italian territorial expansion.

Henry Furst, a New York writer, told a national convention of experts on America the letter was not authentic. Furst substantiated the opinion of Prof. Matteo Bartoli of the University of Turin.

**LINCOLN LETTER  
HANDLED A FORGERY**

**GAY, AMERICAN HISTORIAN, SAYS  
STYLE AND KNOWLEDGE OF ITALIAN  
HISTORY ARE NOT LINCOLN'S.**

**HE DECRIMES ITS ACCEPTANCE**

**Text of Alleged Document Printed  
in Authentic Journal Edited by  
Director of State Archives.**

**BY ARNALDO CORTESE.**

Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ROME, Nov. 22.—The letter recently reported to have been written by Abraham Lincoln from Springfield, Ill., in 1853 to the late Macedonio Melloni, Italian scientist, predicting that Rome would become the capital of the United States of Europe, appeared in the latest issue of *Rassegna storica del Risorgimento*, a historical review whose purpose is to print documents relating to the wars for Italian independence.

The text of the letter, as printed, is the translation made by the famous Italian patriot, Giuseppe Mazzini. It was followed by a brief inclosure signed by Signor Mazzini himself.

The almost official nature of the review in which it appeared, whose editor is Professor Eugenio Casanova, director of the Italian State archives, leads one to believe its authenticity to the alleged Lincoln letter. The original was stated to be in the possession of Nino d'Altham, a descendant of both Signor Melloni and the Italian statesman, Count Camillo di Cavour.

**Authenticity Argued.**

The text of the letter, as printed in *Rassegna storica del Risorgimento*, was preceded by a preface by Giuseppe Leonida Capobianco, whose name had not previously been known in connection with historical research. In the preface the following statements were made:

First, that the English newspaper owned by Lord Northcliffe, offered a considerable sum for the original of the letter during the Paris peace conference after the World War, fearing that, if produced, it might damage the Yugoslav claim.

Second, that an Italian writer, Edmondo Deamicis, in 1908 wished to buy the text of the letter.

Third, that the Italian poet, Gioacchino Carducci, defined the letter as "a most honest page of contemporary history."

Fourth, that the official review of the municipality of Bologna in 1928 printed a facsimile of Signor Carducci's message, referring to Lincoln's letter, accompanied by an article by the English writer, Howard

Fayton, entitled "An Historica Document."

Fifth, that the United States Government had repeatedly offered to purchase the original of the letter.

In many quarters, however, serious doubts are cast on the authenticity of the alleged Lincoln letter. The well-known American historian, Henry Nelson Gay, who, in addition to being one of the greatest authorities on the Italian wars for independence and possessing the largest library in existence on this subject, is also the author of a life of Lincoln, unhesitatingly declared the letter a forgery.

**Deplores Credulity.**

"It is a great pity," he said, "that an excellent publication like *Rassegna storica del Risorgimento*, which has made such valuable contributions to the true knowledge of Italian risorgimento, should have been taken in by such a patent forgery. It is an even greater pity that Professor Eugenio Casanova should have been deceived into lending the authority of his name to a document whose authenticity, to say the least, is doubtful."

"That the letter is a forgery is proved by the following considerations: Nobody has ever seen the original of this alleged letter or even moderately reproductions thereof. Lincoln, in the year 1853, when he was not yet President of the United States, did not possess the knowledge necessary to write such a letter. An exhaustive search of documents relating to Lincoln fails utterly to reveal that he ever knew Macedonio Melloni or was in correspondence with him. The style of the letter is completely unlike any other of Lincoln's writings."

"I give it as my considered opinion that the letter is a forgery. I believe all other responsible historians will agree with me until the original of the letter is produced and submitted to the scrutiny of persons competent to express an opinion on it."

A + tl

## 'LINCOLN LETTER' BRANDED A FORGERY

**Gay, American Historian, Says  
Style and Knowledge of Italian  
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### HE DECRIMES ITS ACCEPTANCE

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The almost official nature of the review in which it appeared, whose editor is Professor Ettore Canevaro, director of the Italian State archives, lends an appearance of authenticity to the alleged Lincoln letter. The original was stated to be in the possession of Nina Dalthain, a descendant of both Signor Melloni and the Italian statesman, Count Camillo di Cavour.

#### Authenticity Argued.

The text of the letter, as printed in *Rassegna Storica del Risorgimento*, was preceded by a preface by Giuseppe Leonida Capobianco, whose name had not previously been known in connection with historical research. In the preface the following statements were made:

First, that the English newspaper owner, Lord Northcliffe, offered a considerable sum for the original of the letter during the Paris peace conference after the World War, fearing that, if produced, it might damage the Yugoslav claim.

Second, that an Italian writer, Edmondo Deamici, in 1908 wished to print the text of the letter.

Third, that the Italian poet, Giosue Carducci, defined the letter as "a most honest page of contemporary history."

Fourth, that the official review of the municipality of Bologna in 1928 printed a facsimile of Signor Carducci's message, referring to Lincoln's letter, accompanied by an article by the English writer, Howard

Peyton, entitled "An Historical Document."

Fifth, that the United States Government had repeatedly offered to purchase the original of the letter. In many quarters, however, serious doubts are cast on the authenticity of the alleged Lincoln letter. The well-known American historian, Henry Nelson Gay, who, in addition to being one of the greatest authorities on the Italian wars for independence and possessing the largest library in existence on this subject, is also the author of a life of Lincoln, unhesitatingly declared the letter a forgery.

#### Deplored Credibility.

"It is a great pity," he said, "that an excellent publication like *Rassegna Storica del Risorgimento*, which has made such valuable contributions to the true knowledge of Italian risorgimenti, should have been taken in by such a patent forgery. It is an even greater pity that Professor Eugenio Casanova should have been deceived into lending the authority of his name to a document whose authenticity, to say the least, is doubtful."

"That the letter is a forgery is proved by the following considerations: Nobody has ever seen the original of this alleged letter or even photostatic reproductions thereof. Lincoln died in the year 1865, when he was not yet President of the United States, and did not possess the knowledge necessary to write such a letter. An exhaustive search of documents relating to Lincoln fails utterly to reveal that he ever knew Macedonio Melloni or was in correspondence with him. The style of the letter is completely unlike any other of Lincoln's writings."

"I give it as my considered opinion

## 7,000 FILIPINOS ASK FREEDOM NOW

Radicals Meet to Protest the  
Moderate Demands Made

by Manuel Quezon.

### PLAN OPPOSITION PARTY

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The formation of a new anti-Quezon political party was forecast, for the purpose of uniting all the country with an appeal for support for an immediate independence program. The statements and resolutions of this group would be more significant if it were not true that most of the leaders are men who have suffered political defeat recently.

Vice Governor George C. P. took over the duties of Governor today. He will carry out the Dwight D. Eisenhower absence.





## CALLS LINCOLN LETTER ON ITALY A FORGERY

ROME, Nov. 17.—Henry Nelson Gay, secretary of the Italo-American Society and Rome Historian, has described as a "forgery" a letter attributed to Abraham Lincoln in which he urged the unification of Italy and predicted that Rome would become the capital of a United States of Europe.

Himself the author of a life of Lincoln in Italian, Gay said: "Lincoln could not have written it. Anyone who has studied Lincoln would be certain of that. I have read Lincoln's correspondence and know that he did not have enough knowledge of European affairs to have written it."

Regarding the statement of the Historical Society of the Italian Renaissance that Lord Northcliffe had offered to buy the document from its present owner, Nino d'Althan, Gay said: If Northcliffe made the offer he did it solely to call d'Althan's bluff and get him to produce the original. My opinion is that the letter is an absolute forgery. I believe it was produced at the time of the Paris peace conference in order to influence President Wilson."

The National Historical Society of the Italian Renaissance has started an investigation of the authenticity of the letter, Prof. Eugenio Casanova, superintendent of the State Archives and president of the society, said today that he was uncertain of the letter's genuineness and he regretted the society had published it while he was out of town.

### THE LATEST LINCOLN FORGERY.

Chicago Daily News: Abraham Lincoln during the year 1853 was living the quiet life of a private citizen and practicing attorney in Springfield, Ill. He was in retirement from active political life. The Whig party, with which he had been identified, was fading off the political map. In this period of Lincoln's life he considered

himself something of a political wash-out.

It was in this year of 1853, however, that a letter which has just come to light in Italy is supposed to have been written. The writer who forged Lincoln's name to that letter was not up on Sangamon county politics and Lincoln's life. He would have picked some other year had he been cognizant of his onions.

The fabricated letter pictures Lincoln envisioning a day when Rome would become the capital of a United States of Europe. In trying to imitate Lincoln's style of expression, the fabricator has him declare the leading Italian city to be "the most glorious Rome which gave civilization to all the terrestrial globe, which has discovered us, created, redeemed, educated and nourished us morally with her indestructible laws." The five verbs here employed are three or four more than Lincoln would have used. Also, the fabricator has Lincoln referring to war as "the most turbulent and insensate of unnamable speculations"—two or three more adjectives than Lincoln could possibly be imagined as using.

In the hour when Lincoln is represented as using this grandiose language, he was having his hands full getting unity among the clashing elements in the Illinois political vineyard. If he could get something like harmony in Illinois, he might hope for it nationally. After that, he might possibly have considered Italian political unity and the formation of a United States of Europe.

Writing letters that sound like Lincoln is no easy job. Americans have tried it and could not get away with it. The forgery was usually evident in the lingo if not in the handwriting. However, we should not discourage anyone who feels like imitating Lincoln's literary style. He had a bare, lucid and accurate way of telling things. And back of his telling lay much thought and brooding.

### THE LATEST LINCOLN FORGERY.

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# PROOF IS OFFERED OF LINCOLN LETTER

Italian Paper Prints Facsimiles  
of Fragment of Translation  
and Signature on Original.

## DOUBTS CALLED "PUERILE"

Professor Casanova, State Archivist,  
Challenges Any One to Rebut  
Photographic Evidence.  
*1-12-32 h [initials]*

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.  
ROME, Jan. 11.—The Rassegna Storica dei Risorgimenti, the official publication of the National Italian Historical Society, today published a special edition containing an article by its editor, Professor Eugenio Casanova, who is also director of the Italian State Archives, confirming the authenticity of the disputed Lincoln letter supposed to have been addressed in 1853 from Springfield, Ill., to the Italian scientist, Macedonio Melloni. It was in this letter that, among other things, the Italian claims to Dalmatia and Corsica were upheld.

As proof of the authenticity of the letter, Professor Casanova printed photographic reproductions of the last few lines of the last page of the translation of Lincoln's letter, made by the Italian patriot Giuseppe Mazzini, as well as a small triangular fragment as being a part of Lincoln's original letter, on which one of the words "Yours Very Truly" and the signature of Lincoln can be read.

In his article Professor Casanova, after referring to the great clamor of the transoceanic press about the alleged Lincoln letter and mentioning some objections made to its authenticity, says, "With full knowledge of what I am talking about, I declare that the objections raised are unfounded and puerile. I am enabled to speak thus unhesitatingly by the facsimile, which I publish by the courtesy of the owner of the incriminated trans-

lation. I challenge any one to state it is not Mazzini's handwriting or that it is a forgery. For the same reason I print here the last words and the signature of the Lincoln message in order that American experts may express their opinions about the authenticity of this second facsimile.

No one could be found in Rome capable of telling offhand from the photographic reproduction whether the facsimile of Lincoln's signature was truly penned in his hand. In any event, it was pointed out, this proof had no significance because, since no words of the text were visible, the signature might have been photographed from another Lincoln document having no connection with the present controversy.

As for Mazzini's signature, grave doubts of its authenticity were expressed in some quarters, although a more profound examination will be necessary before a definite reply can be given. Even though Mazzini's signature is authentic, it was added, this did not prove that Lincoln ever wrote the letter of which Mazzini purported to have made a translation.

## *'Lincoln Letter' Finder Arrested for Forgery; Italy Charges Faking of Medieval Documents*

1932

Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ROME, May 7.—Giuseppe Leonida Capobianca, "discoverer" of a letter alleged to have been written by Abraham Lincoln in 1853 to Macedonio Melloni, Italian scientist, has been arrested on charges of forging several medieval documents. Although the Lincoln letter was not on the list of forgeries, Capobianca's arrest has caused grave doubts concerning the authenticity of that document.

The alleged Lincoln letter became the subject of a controversy on both sides of the Atlantic last November when Capobianca, in an article in *Rassegna Storica del Risorgimento*, presented the text and contended it was an authentic document. The letter supported Italian claims to sovereignty over the eastern coast of the Adriatic Sea.

Doubts concerning the authenticity of the letter were immediately raised in the United States, but

shortly afterward the magazine printed an article by its editor, Professor Eugenio Casanova, superintendent of State archives, in which the letter was upheld in strong terms.

Scientists who have attacked Capobianca's "discovery" asserted today that his arrest for forgery would end arguments in behalf of the Lincoln letter.

The "Lincoln letter" produced by Capobianca last November did not find any supporters in the United States. Henry Nelson Gay, American historian, contended that Lincoln in 1853 did not possess a knowledge of Italian politics sufficient to enable him to write such a letter, that there was no evidence that Lincoln had even heard of Macedonio Melloni, and that the style of the letter was unlike any of Lincoln's writings.

## CHARGE ITALIAN LAWYER FORGED LINCOLN LETTER

Rome, May 7.—(AP)—Government authorities said today charges of forging medieval state documents had been filed against Giuseppe Leonida Capoblanco, an attorney whose name figured in a controversy last November over the authenticity of a letter supposed to have been written by Abraham Lincoln.

Capoblanco was reported to have been arrested in Naples a month ago, but the police there declined to discuss the case.

The attorney wrote an article in a periodical of the National Historical society of the Italian renaissance. In it the purported Lincoln letter, envisaging a united Italy, was presented in translation, supposedly by the liberator, Giuseppe Mazzini.

Both the letter and the translation later were called forgeries by critics. The controversy involving Italian and American historians, but the claim that they were genuine was vigorously supported by Professor Eugenio Casanova, superintendent of the state archives and editor of the periodical.

The letter, supposed to have been written by Lincoln at Springfield, Ill., in 1853 and addressed to the late Macedonio Melloni, scientist, patriot and one time director of the Vesuvius observatory, predicted that Rome would become the capital of a United States of Europe.

The document was owned by Nino D'Althau, a descendant of Camillo Cavour, statesman of Italy's unification. He said he had sent it to a cousin in Mentone, France, because he feared it would be stolen from his home at Narvi, near Geneva, Italy.

Signor D'Althau said he had written a book about the letter and that when it was off the press he would ask his cousin for the original and present it to Premier Mussolini.

# LINCOLN NOTE ON ITALIAN EUROPE BRANDED FAKE

## 1853 Letter Saw Rome as Continental Capital.

Oct 14 [1936]

ROME, Oct. 13.—(UPI)—A much disputed letter in which Abraham Lincoln supposedly envisioned Rome as the capital of "the United States of Europe" was labeled a fake today.

In the letter, purported to have been written in 1853 to a lieutenant of Giuseppe Mazzini, Italian liberator, Lincoln was supposed to have approved Italian territorial expansion.

Henry Furst, a writer of New York, told a national convention of experts on America the letter was not authentic.

### Style Florid and Rambling.

Furst substantiated the opinion of Prof. Matteo Bartoli of the University of Turin, who declared the letter was spurious for a variety of reasons.

They agreed the florid, rambling style of the message was incompatible with Lincoln's terse, matter-of-fact manner.

Their most damaging evidence was the letter's reference to "Venezia Giulia," a province which did not come into existence until 1860, seven years after the date of the message.

They pointed out also that the original persistently has been withheld from scholars.

### Aims to Lay Ghost of Fraud.

Furst was warmly applauded when he told the assemblage he wished "to lay the ghost of this old fraud once and for all."

The letter, dated from Springfield, Ill., before Lincoln became President, was published first by the Historical Society of the Italian Renaissance in 1931, with the consent of the Italian government.

It met almost immediate fire from skeptical students of Lincoln, and the late Henry Nelson Gay, American historian, declared it was not genuine.

Before its publication the letter was used in an effort to influence President Wilson at the Versailles peace conference to favor Italian claims to the Dalmatian coast.

### The Letter.

Predicting Rome would be the capital of the United States of Europe, the letter referred to ancient appeals

tions of Rome as the world capital and said:

"The privileged geographical position itself of the Eternal City justifies in the eyes of every one this augural prophecy—that most glorious Rome, which gave civilization to all the terrestrial globe, which discovered us, created, redeemed, educated, and nourished us morally with her indestructible laws."

The letter recommended Italy, ~~merely a geographical name for independent states in 1853, should be unified and~~ should include the three major islands of the Mediterranean—Sardinia, Corsica and Sicily—as well as the provinces of Lombardy and Venice, the Tridentine and Julian Venetie (Venezia Giulia).

The letter, addressed to Macedonia Melchiorre, a scientist and patriot of the time who was director of the Venezia Giulia observatory, is owned now by Mario D'Alman, a descendant boy of Melchiorre and Count Camillo Cavour, statesman of Italy's unification.

**LINCOLN LETTER  
LABELED FAKE**

Rome, Oct. 14.—(P)—A much-disputed letter in which Abraham Lincoln supposedly envisaged Rome as the capital of "the United States of Europe" was labeled a fake yesterday.

In the letter, purported to have been written in 1853 to a lieutenant of Giuseppe Mazzini, Italian liberator, Lincoln was supposed to have approved Italian territorial expansion. Henry Furst, a writer of New York, told a national convention of experts on America the letter was not authentic.

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FRANCIS M. VAN NATTER  
BOX 85  
VINCENNES, INDIANA

September 15, 1937

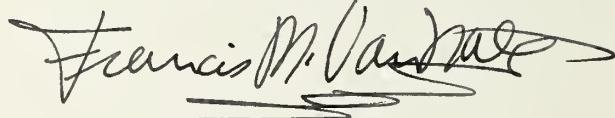
Dr. Louis A. Warren,  
Director, Lincoln National Life Foundation,  
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Dr. Warren,

In Emanuel Hertz's "Abraham Lincoln, A New Portrait", Vol.II, pages 622-625, is to be found a letter said to have been written by Lincoln, 1853, to an Italian physicist, Maccedonio Melloni. What do you know about this letter? Was it really written by Abraham Lincoln? Have you ever seen either a photostat or a photograph of it, including the signature? Mr. Hertz therein states "Countess Zucconolini Modena has the original."

I should appreciate hearing from you, giving me the low down on that letter. Kindest regards and best wishes. When are you planning to visit Vincennes again? We'll be glad to see you.

Faithfully yours,

  
Francis M. Van Natter

September 20, 1937

Mr. Francis M. Van Natter  
Box 85  
Vincennes, Indiana

My dear Mr. Van Natter:

There is no doubt whatever but what the letter said to have been written to the scientist Melloni is a forgery. The New York Times first released to the Associated Press November 20, 1931 the story of the discovery of the letter. The following day, November 21, the Times carried an article which implied that it was a forgery. As late as 1936 the Chicago Daily News commented on the letter and branded it as a fake. Now there seems to be evidence that an Italian lawyer who was arrested for forging many Medieval State documents was the real author of the Lincoln letter.

I trust these references will answer your queries.

I have an engagement to speak before the Vincennes Rotary Club on Tuesday noon, November 16, and hope I may have the pleasure of seeing you at that time.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Director

N.Y. Sept 27 '40

LINCOLN HISTORICAL And RESEARCH FOUNDATION

FORT WAYNE INDIANA

Dear Sir.

I wish to forward a copy of a letter printed in an Italian weekly, that it is claimed to have been written by A. Lincoln, back in the 1853. *other*

The said letter had been published by ~~a~~ fascist press as a sort of fascist propaganda.. I did forward the copy to the N.Y. Herald - Tribune but the ~~ans~~wer is that they have no information and suggested your address.

Reading the letter it seems to me too...modern and suspicious.

I wish to know if the said letter is genuine...or at least altered.

Yours respectfully

*Osvaldo Forlani*

Osvaldo Forlani.

Osvaldo Forlani  
146 E. 16nt. Str.  
N.Y. CITY

October 1, 1940

Mr. Osvaldo Poirani  
146 E. 16th St.  
New York, N. Y.

My dear Sir:

The letter supposedly written by Abraham Lincoln to the Italian scientist Macedonio Melloni is well known to Lincoln students as a forgery made by an Italian lawyer by the name of Giuseppe Leonida Capodianco.

This forged letter has had wide circulation but Abraham Lincoln never had anything to do with it.

You may refer to the New York Times of November 23, 1931 for further evidence about the forgery.

Very truly yours,

LAW:BS

Director

# LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor  
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 615

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

January 20, 1941

## LINCOLN'S COMMENTS ON ITALY

Our disturbed diplomatic relations with Italy have brought to notice again a letter said to have been written by Abraham Lincoln in 1853 to the scientist Macedonio Melloni. Some weeks ago an Italian newspaper *Il Corriere* published at Yonkers, New York, printed the letter in full and made some comment on its significance. Later a copy of the paper containing the letter was forwarded to the Lincoln National Life Foundation, asking for criticism with respect to the genuineness of the letter.

It is claimed the document was used to influence Woodrow Wilson at the Versailles Peace Conference in 1919. The document was first made public, however, in 1920 when a dispatch from Paris dated May 1 appeared in the Philadelphia *Public Ledger*, announcing that a letter written by Abraham Lincoln in 1853 had been found in the archives of the Melloni family at Modena and that Countess Zucconolini was then in possession of the reputedly original copy.

Again in 1931 a United Press dispatch from Rome dated November 19 stated that a letter written by Abraham Lincoln to the scientist Macedonio Melloni had been discovered. The New York *Times* published the story on the following day and noted that the letter was owned by Nino D'Althan, a relative of the original recipient. The dispatch said that the Historical Society of the Italian Renaissance ordered that photostatic copies be distributed to libraries and historians all over the world.

Lack of space will not permit the printing of the entire letter in *Lincoln Lore*, but it may be found in Emanuel Hertz', *Abraham Lincoln, A New Portrait*. (pp. 623-625.)

A few excerpts from the letter follow:

(Springfield, Illinois, 1857)

"My dear Melloni:

"Humboldt has given me the message you sent me through Mr. Faraday, of your desire to have my thoughts concerning the political reorganization of Europe. I admire all you have suffered for science and still more what you have suffered for the independence and liberty of your beloved country. . . .

"We were all on the road to the forming of a single race when suddenly there fell upon the civilized world that epoch of deep darkness, that epoch of barbarism, obscuring the glorious light of immortal, eternal Rome—that Rome which had given civilization to the entire world, that Rome which has even made America a civilized nation and which has nourished us morally by her indisputable laws, that Rome which in my opinion will be, in the more or less distant future, the luminous capital of the United States of Europe. It is criminal to obstruct the normal course of the development of nations and block the foundation of the future United States of Europe. . . .

"As to the Albanians, they are Italians and nothing else, the same as the Sicilians and the inhabitants of the southern part of your peninsula. When you Italians were already civilized we Americans had not yet been born. . . .

"Two empires in my opinion are destined to disappear from the face of the earth to make place for the birth of free and independent nationalities. I mean the British empire and the Austrian empire which are indeed historical absurdities or, if you like better the expression, ethnical paradoxes. The universal confederation of human consciences must triumph.

"Napoleon once said that Europe would either become republican or Cossack. She must not become Cossack. . . .

"Science teaches us that our politics should end all the forms of imperialism which weigh as a great cloud on the human race. This then would be true civilization. Yours,

"ABRAHAM LINCOLN."

Although the authenticity of the letter was immediately questioned, the official publication of the National Italian Historical Society published a special edition on January 11, 1932, confirming the genuineness of the letter and challenging anyone to prove it otherwise.

American Lincoln students, even before reading the body of the document, branded the letter a forgery on four external counts: the date, the opening salutation, the addressee, and the signature. In 1853 when the letter is alleged to have been written, Lincoln had temporarily withdrawn from politics and was traveling the Eighth Judicial Circuit on the prairies of Illinois. The opening salutation is rather too familiar to have been used by Lincoln at any time. A careful search gave no evidence that Lincoln ever had an opportunity to know the famous scientist to whom the letter was addressed before the year 1853. In signing his personal correspondence previous to his election to the Presidency, Lincoln is not known to have used his full signature. He always signed A. Lincoln.

Aside from the observations in the examination of the external evidence, the internal evidence also proved conclusively that the letter was a forgery. One of the provinces mentioned in the correspondence dated 1853 did not come into existence until 1860. The use of certain words such as "Cossack," instead of the word "Russian," seems not to have been used in Lincoln's vocabulary, and the diction throughout the letter is not comparable to Lincoln's simple manner of expression.

Later, government authorities in Rome brought charges against Giuseppe Leonida Capobianco, an attorney, for forging state documents. He is the same person who wrote some preliminary statements associated with the Italian translation of the Lincoln letter.

It would now appear that influence at Versailles was the motive for the forgery and that Capobianco had something to do with the composition of the original letter, which by the way has never been submitted in the handwriting of Lincoln.

Rather than make this copy of *Lincoln Lore* entirely negative, we are presenting a reply made by Abraham Lincoln on July 23, 1864, to the Italian minister, Bertinatti, at Washington. Although Lincoln may not have composed this statement, he most certainly addressed Bertinatti as follows:

"Mr. Commander Bertinatti: I am free to confess that the United States have in the course of the last three years encountered vicissitudes and been involved in controversies which have tried the friendship and even the forbearance of other nations, but at no stage in this unhappy fraternal war in which we are only endeavoring to save and strengthen the foundations of our national unity has the king or the people of Italy faltered in addressing to us the language of respect, confidence, and friendship. We have tried you, Mr. Bertinatti, as a charge d'affaires and as a minister resident, and in both these characters we have found you always sincerely and earnestly interpreting the loyal sentiments of your sovereign. At the same time I am sure that no minister here has more faithfully maintained and advanced the interests with which he was charged by his government. I desire that your countrymen may know that I think you have well deserved the elevation to which I owe the pleasure of the present interview.

"I pray God to have your country in his holy keeping, and to vouchsafe to crown with success her noble aspirations to renew, under the auspices of her present enlightened government, her ancient career, so wonderfully illustrated in the achievements of art, science, and freedom."

**A Lincoln Mystery.**

Melloni, Macedonio

1953

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Professor EUGENIO CASANOVA is more vehement than convincing in his defense of the authenticity of the letter supposed to have been written by ABRAHAM LINCOLN from Springfield, Illinois, in 1853 to MACEDONIO MELLONI, an Italian scientist. HENRY NELSON GAY, an American historian, has denounced it as a forgery, asserting that nobody has seen the original document or a photostatic copy of it, that the literary style is unlike LINCOLN'S; that there is nothing in American archives to indicate LINCOLN was acquainted with MELLONI, that there is no reason for supposing that in 1853 LINCOLN possessed the intimate knowledge of Italian political affairs revealed in the letter.

In reply Professor CASANOVA, who is director of Italian State archives, asserts that the objections that have been made are "unfounded and puerile." He has prepared a photographic reproduction of the last few lines of what is said to be a translation of the Lincoln letter by GIUSEPPE MAZZINI, the Italian patriot. The picture shows a signature supposed to be that of MAZZINI and what is supposed to be a fragment of the original letter containing the words, "Yours very truly, A. Lincoln." The professor says this exhibit was prepared in order that American experts might form their own opinions as to the authenticity of the document.

This does not seem to provide much material with which American or any other kind of experts can work. Presumably it will first be necessary to establish the authenticity of MAZZINI's signature and to establish the fact that MAZZINI did sign what he believed to be a translation of a letter from LINCOLN. Even that, however, would not prove that LINCOLN wrote the original letter. As to the fragment supposed to bear the American's signature, that would mean less than nothing as detached from the body of the document to which it was originally affixed. It would be simple enough for anybody desiring to commit a literary hoax to obtain a facsimile of LINCOLN'S signature from any of the known letters bearing his name.

The letter, whoever wrote it, urged among other things the unification of Italy, with Rome as capital. It is supposed to be in the possession of a descendant of MELLONI. On November 23 the Associated Press quoted that person as saying in Geneva that he had turned it over to a cousin in Mentone, France, but that he would ask his cousin for it and present it to Premier MUSSOLINI. It is not yet clear whether this is the document Professor CASANOVA has caused to be photographed. Exploration of the mystery will be of interest to historians and antiquarians in general.





